

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

To help contain the spread of the coronavirus, all Sunday services will be live-streamed on YouTube Live and Zoom until further notice. Please see Page 3, and keep an eye on your email, as well as www.uuprinceton.org for updates.

May 3, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

The Fires of Rebirth

May 1st marks the celebration and passing of another Beltane, the ancient fire festival of light that celebrated fertility and the coming of the summer. But too much fire, both physical and metaphorical, can be an incredibly destructive force on the lives of many around it. Join us on this Sunday as we reflect on the many natures of fire and what the possibilities are and can be for our society around us.

Worship Leader: **Pauline Nijander**, Ministerial Intern Worship Associate: **Lauren Foss**
Music: **Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

May 10, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Babbling as One

The *Tower of Babel* story in Judaic scripture gives us a mystical glimpse into the origins of our diversity. Through it, we gain insight on our differences, our commonalities, and how we can live in peace and justice, together.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Bill Neely** Worship Associate: **Marc Rubenstein**
Music: **Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

May 17, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

A Living, Learning Faith

Today we celebrate our Children's Faith Development program and the many people who make it come alive. Through our volunteers and shared congregational commitment, our CFD program helps us all live and learn Unitarian Universalism in vibrant and faithful ways.

Worship Leaders: **Revs. Jennifer Kelleher and Bill Neely** Worship Associate: **Bob Harris**
Music: **Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

May 24, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Fighting for Peace

The paths of peace are plentiful, winding, and sometimes contradictory. For some, the path toward peace might include a kind of violence that can prevent greater harm. For others, a path toward peace can only be travelled in complete peace. Knowing that peace is our common dream, how can we journey together, even on different paths, toward its realization? This service will include a Memorial Day remembrance.

Worship Leader: **Rev. Bill Neely** Worship Associate: **Darci Erickson**
Music: **Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

May 31, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

The Miracles Among Us

We often think big when we think of miracles: of huge events that may shift the world as we know it. But when we dig into miracle stories in different traditions, we find that they're often kind of small. They're usually about a few folks who bless one another, and then life goes on. What can we learn from these small miracles, and how might they help us see our own lives as miraculous?

Worship Leader: **Rev. Bill Neely** Worship Associate: **Clara Haignere**
Music: **Nick Tiberi**, piano; **Marjorie Herman**

The Good News

Reverend Bill Neely

A Prayer of Grief

Rev. Bill Neely

Spirit of love and life,
 We lift up prayers today
 For those living with the grief of lost loved ones.
 For those whose hearts have broken open in sadness;
 Who wake each morning to an absence;
 Who feel at each table an emptiness;
 And who know a certain silence in each song of life.
 We pray for their comfort and peace;
 Found among friends;
 Found among family;
 Found among moments of beauty and meaning;
 In nature and art; alone and with others.
 We pray that laughter returns,
 And is welcomed, and that tears of grief
 Intermingle with tears of joy,
 And that both are welcomed.
 And that the grief, which abides,
 Is layered with life, which also abides,
 And that each is welcomed.
 And that all those who grieve,
 Who eventually, is all,
 Are surrounded by love and care,
 And silent support, and the often sparse words
 Of great and enduring presence.
 And that you, holy One, are known
 In grieving hearts, beating to a common pulse
 Of love and memory and one another;
 That you lead us to one another,
 That you lead us through isolation and aloneness,
 And toward shared moments of grief,
 Which become a deeper sharing of life,
 Of love, of community,
 And all the goodness that abides,
 For all our days.
 Amen.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020 UPDATE On April 13, 2020, the UUA Board of Trustees passed a resolution to make the 2020 General Assembly a 100% virtual event. This decision alleviates the anxiety and concern shared by many about how GA might proceed given the impact of COVID-19. It also gives the Association time to plan a more robust and rewarding virtual experience.

A virtual GA has many benefits, including a significant reduction in our carbon footprint and the possibility of higher attendance, since it is more accessible to those for whom travel costs or time has been a barrier. Read more [here](#).

[Register online for GA 2020](#)

Committee on Ministry

Note from the Committee on Ministry

As you may have read in April's *Skylights*, the Committee on Ministry was planning to ask your help in filling out a survey about volunteerism at UU Princeton. In light of the current situation we are all experiencing, we have decided to postpone this project until we are better able to think about this topic and perhaps have a better perspective on how we might engage in volunteerism in the future.

In the meantime, stay safe and well,

*Linda Benson, Kathy Fedorko, Sharon McCrae,
 Pat Radtke, Lisa Roche, and Judy Vee*

Mission Statement of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton

*In our open, welcoming
 community we live our message
 of hope, love, justice, and joy.*

*Approved at the 6/3/2012
 Unitarian Universalist Congregation of
 Princeton Annual Meeting*

May Spiritual Theme – Diversity

By Rev. Bill

Our Monthly Spiritual Themes guide our Chalice Circles, which are small, intentional groups of members and friends that gather for spiritual enrichment through personal sharing. For more information on Chalice Circles, please email Linda Benson at chalicecircles@uuprinceton.org. Our Chalice Circle thoughts and questions around the theme of *Diversity* this month are:

“It is time for parents to teach young people early on that in diversity there is beauty and there is strength.” — Maya Angelou

Did a parent or adult teach this lesson to you? Have you taught it to a young one?

“Dominator culture has tried to keep us all afraid, to make us choose safety instead of risk, sameness instead of diversity. Moving through that fear, finding out what connects us, reveling in our differences; this is the process that brings us closer, that gives us a world of shared values, of meaningful community.” — bell hooks,

When has learning, working, or living in a diverse setting taught you about “shared values” and “meaningful community?”

“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” — Audre Lorde

Have you witnessed a time when recognizing, accepting, and celebrating differences united a group?

“Diversity is about all of us, and about us having to figure out how to walk through this world together.” — Jacqueline Woodson

When have you moved through this world in a diverse sense of togetherness?

“When we're talking about diversity, it's not a box to check. It is a reality that should be deeply felt and held and valued by all of us.” — Ava DuVernay

Who have you known who has valued diversity as a reality to be held and felt?

JOIN US FOR LIVE-STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

As we plan for the immediate future, we hope you'll join us for our live-stream worship service on Sunday mornings, at 10:30 a.m.! We're planning two ways for us to join together:

View via Zoom:

Every Sunday morning we will send an e-mail message with the access information.

View via YouTube Live

<https://www.youtube.com/user/uuprinceton>



Faith Development for Children and Youth

Look for e-mails with information about upcoming programming.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton Relational Covenant

Our covenant affirms a commitment to build loving, healthy, and trusting relationships within our congregation.

We make these promises in order to love better, relate more compassionately, and feel the power of our human connections.

Our Promises:

- ❖ We warmly welcome all.
- ❖ We speak with honesty, respect, and compassion.
- ❖ We listen attentively.
- ❖ We express gratitude for the service of others.
- ❖ We honor and support one another in our spiritual journeys and in times of joy, need, and struggle.
- ❖ We embrace our diversity and the opportunity to share our different perspectives.
- ❖ We address our disagreements directly and openly, and see conflict through to an authentic resolution.
- ❖ We serve our spiritual community with generosity and joy.
- ❖ We strive to keep these promises, but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others, and begin again in love.



The Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Newcomers' Events

The Mission of the UU Princeton Membership Ministry is that *all who enter feel welcome, known, and loved. Newcomers experience personal and congregational connections that lead them to become committed UUs and members of our congregation.*

To this end, we offer newcomers the following program to get to know us better:

We hope to resume our newcomers' events soon.

If you have any questions about our events, membership or our congregation, please email us at membership@uuprinceton.org. We look forward to getting to know you better.



Signing the Membership Book Ceremony

This ceremony of becoming a member is for those who have previously attended "The Shared Journey" and want to become members. Please sign-up at the Welcome Circle or contact **Rev. Bill Neely** at 609-924-1604 ext. 111 or bill@uuprinceton.org to arrange a time.

HATE HAS NO HOME HERE.

El odio no tiene hogar aquí.

نفرت کے لئے یہاں کوئی گھر نہیں ہے
الکرہ لیس له بیت هنا



Joys and Sorrows

Pastoral Associates is a group of trained and caring members of the congregation that offers support and assistance to congregants facing difficulties, crises, or life transitions. If you believe that someone within the congregation or you, yourself, might benefit from the PA program, please send an email to PA@UUPrinceton.org, or contact **Judy Malsbury** or **Lauren Foss**.

To help nurture a beloved community here in this congregation, please remember to share significant events in members' lives with the Pastoral Associates, who are charged with extending the pastoral ministry. This column is a place to inform the larger community of major events in people's lives. Sometimes people want to have their news shared; sometimes privacy and confidentiality prevail. Items for this column should be sent to pa@uuprinceton.org. All items will be reviewed by the Pastoral Associate leadership team before publishing (Judy Malsbury, Lauren Foss, Rev. Jennifer Kelleher, and Rev. Bill Neely).

Members of the Congregation from the 80's and 90's, **Benjamin Muckenhaupt** died peacefully the morning of April 13 after a long battle with progressive supranuclear palsy. **Mary Kay Muckenhaupt** is living in memory care at Artis Senior Living of Princeton Junction. It is unlikely she will recognize anyone from the UU church. Memorial donations can be made to the [Seashore Trolley Museum](#).

Marilyn (Mal) Durbin has just become a great grandmother. Her beloved granddaughter, Aarti Jain, had a baby boy on April 4th. Because of her cross country move, Mal is delighted that she now lives close to them.



A collection box for new or homemade face masks

Gracenotes

Born from Crisis: The Music Ministry's Stone Soup Chamber Choir

In mid-March, our pianist Nick Tiberi sent our musicians a gift-video he made as a gesture of encouragement upon hearing that all of us musicians would be apart for an unknown period of time. Nick chose to play "Spirit of Life," our beloved hymn by Carolyn McDade because of its comforting presence in every Sunday service for the past several months. So, Nick's video was the beginning, a springboard to a choir project shepherded by Mineko Ogata, one of our altos. When Mineko saw Nick's video, she added the alto part of the hymn to Nick's playing and sent it to the members of Adult Choir. With that email, she asked singers if they would make videos of their own voice parts with the hope of keeping our choir singing alive.

Several singers were immediately moved by Mineko's effort. One of them, drawing upon the legend of the "Stone Soup", suggested that since their efforts resembled that old legend about learning to share, we could call this ensemble the Stone Soup Chamber Choir*. Fourteen brave and courageous choir members sent in videos of their voices and sign language (Alice Deanin, of course). And our first virtual video was born.

About this process Mineko said, "Nick provided the pot and the base of the soup for us who were hungry for live choir music, and I added the first stone. The project was more time-consuming and computer work than I thought. But every time I received a video from singers, their efforts and warm hearts moved me a lot to try my best to complete the video. I would like to appreciate Margie, Nick and all the choir members from the bottom of my heart to let this project go forward." We're all so grateful to Mineko and her son Mark for their countless hours and enormous patience.

Over the past month, many of you have seen videos appear online in which singers and musicians have appeared from different locations, each of them adding their own parts to the mix. These are called 'virtual ensembles.' It's probably hard to imagine how much time goes into assembling these videos, and then designing the screen that will accompany the music. It was Mineko and her son Mark who painstakingly created ours. Although quite different from singing/playing together in the same location, it's become a way for musicians to keep their musical connection alive during this time of crisis, adding inspiration to virtual audiences in the bargain. The video of Spirit of Life was removed due to technical difficulties. Look for its reappearance coming soon. We're hoping that our next project will attract more of our singers into the mix. So stay tuned.

- **SSCC singers:** Lynn Whitney, Rebecca Nice-Parrone, Jeanne DeVoe, Candus Hedberg, Janet Heroux, Mineko Ogata (2 parts), Lori Ingwersen, Herb Foster (2 parts), James Louis, Margie Herman, Catherine Schurdak, Victor Cristobal. **Producer and editor:** Mineko Ogata.

Music Ministry Ensembles – Even though our ensembles are on hiatus at the moment, why not consider joining our Music Ministry once the threat of the virus subsides.

Adult Choir. The ensemble has 25-30 members, and

Music Ministry Mission Statement

To provide, through the power of music, a dynamic ministry that will inspire transcendent personal experiences, draw the congregation into greater kinship, and bring inspiration to the wider community.



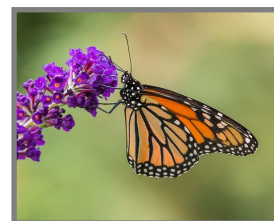
now includes several people from the community who have come to sing! We're looking for singers in all sections, **but altos and basses especially are needed.** If you hesitate because you think your voice isn't good enough, or in shape, come and be surprised at how quickly your voice will expand when surrounded with voices just like yours. Even a minimal amount of choral or music-reading experience, recent or long ago, is all you'll need to add your voice to this wonderful and welcoming ensemble. Rehearsals are **every Wednesday evening**, from 7:30 to 9pm; the Choir sings for services about two Sundays per month. To sing in the Adult Choir, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net, or just come and check us out any Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.

Bell Choir. Our Director, Joelle Piercy has been leading our enthusiastic ensemble of bell ringers for many years. AND, for the 2019-2020 season she will be taking a much deserved sabbatical as her new baby is due in the fall. Our interim director is Princeton University student Thaddeus Whelan, who now serves as a lead percussionist with the Princeton University Band. Rehearsals for the Bell Choir has changed to **Sunday afternoons at 12:30 in Room 1.** Please note that we not only have 3 octaves of bells, but we also have three octaves of chimes, with a softer, sweeter sound. If interested, contact Marjorie at marjmuse@verizon.net.

Kids' Chorale. Director Evan Corn is off to college in the fall, and we are in hot pursuit of a replacement. The Kids will continue to rehearse **most Sunday mornings at 9:30am.** It's a great time to consider this kid-friendly bunch, so contact marjmuse@verizon.net for a complete rehearsal and performance schedule.

Oompah Band. This jolly ensemble is for woodwind and brass players. This ensemble is always looking for more instrumentalists. The Oompah Band is the group that adds so much color and charm to church events such as the Hanging of the Greens. With the addition of a few more musicians last year, the Band sounded fuller than ever. If interested, contact Herb Foster at Herb_foster@yahoo.com.

House Band Under the superb direction of **John Burton**, the house band has gone great guns in its first year. We're still looking for a guitarist, bass player, and percussionist to join accomplished Gig-meister John to add energy (not necessarily volume) to our services. You can reach John at johnmburton@gmail.com



Adult Faith Development & Fellowship

Faith Development News – Stay Tuned!

Much of what we had planned for Adult Faith Development in May and perhaps beyond is being re-imagined and adapted. Please keep an eye out for email announcements about different programs and online gathering opportunities that are in the works. Our ministries of faith development for all ages will absolutely continue, but in new and creative formats. We'll be in touch!

The regularly scheduled meetings listed below are likely to be either cancelled or teleconferenced during the month of May, contact the meeting leader if you have questions.

SPECIAL and ONGOING PROGRAMS

Women's Alliance

Please join us at our May luncheon that will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2020, at noon **VIA ZOOM**.

All are welcome!

We'll start with some chat time as we eat our own lunches. Then we'll move on to the business portion of our meeting. This is our Annual Meeting in which we will elect new officers, approve charitable donations, and present our annual report. Only members in good standing (that is they've paid their dues!) will be able to vote. After that, several local poets will share with us selections from their treasured works.

You will need to provide your own soup, sandwich, salad and dessert!

Instructions for our Zoom meeting that will be hosted and monitored by the Rev. Bill Neely, will be sent to our email distribution list. To be placed on this list contact President Harriet Scooler, 908-256-0051, hscooler44@gmail.com.

Great Books Reading Circle

Sunday, May 17 at 12:15, contact Lisa Roche

We meet monthly - usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month after Worship Service. Please come to any meeting that intrigues you - no sign-up needed! All are welcome.

We are a novel reading group!

May 17, 2020 *Kokoro* by Soseki Natsume

June 21, 2020 Book Selection for next year!

Contact Lisa Roche with questions, rochebarbiero@gmail.com, 609-403-8148. Our reading list is online at

www.uuprinceton.org/connect/groups/great-books/

Princeton Eats Plants

Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m., contact Vicky Campbell

The Princeton Eats Plants (PEP) group supports and encourages interest in or the practice of Whole Food, Plant-Based eating and living. No animal products. Connected with the greater PlantPure Community, this group meets monthly to share knowledge, resources, food and events. The goal is to nurture good health, prevent disease and be kinder to our planet.

We meet on the **first Wednesday of each month** (unless there is a holiday) at 6:30 pm

Please contact Vicky Campbell, or consider watching the documentary, "*Forks Over Knives*" on Netflix and/or "*PlantPureNation* ; Interested in joining us? please sign up: [Meetup.com/Princeton-Eats-Plants/](https://www.meetup.com/Princeton-Eats-Plants/) If you join us for potluck, all plant food is welcome, no animal product, please do not add oil or salt. If you are not sure, bring a bowl of fruit.

Buddhist Meditation Group

Every Sunday at 12:00, contact Michele Ochsner

~Michele Ochsner

Yoga for health, well-being, and peace of mind

Mondays 9:15—10:30 a.m., contact Sharon Savage. Gentle Yoga ~Sharon Savage

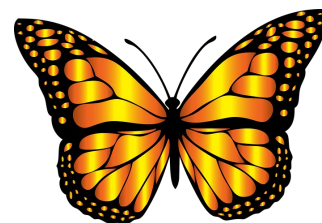
Wednesdays 5:30—6:30 p.m., contact Lauren Foss. Vinyasa Flow Yoga

Join us as we connect movement with breath. We will explore various yoga asanas, focusing on breath and alignment. You will come away strengthened with a more open body and sharpened mental focus. It is an invigorating and challenging, while also grounding and meditative, practice. ~Lauren Foss

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) Evergreen Chapter meets monthly and quarterly.

Friday near the Full Moon, 7:00-9:30 pm, Memorial Garden in fine weather, John Murray Room otherwise. Contact Elissa Hoeger.

~Elissa Hoeger, Convenor, Evergreen CUUPS





Social Justice Ministry and Related Meetings and Events Changes and Cancellation Updates

Social Justice Steering Committee Meetings:

Our next Social Justice meeting steering committee will be June 23. Time and location or Zoom details will be provided in June Skylights. Contact Louise Senior (drLSenior@gmail.com) or Francesca Vollaro (favollaro@aol.com) with any questions or topics that need to be addressed via email or other virtual means.

Loaves and Fishes 2020: Our annual joint effort with UU Washington Crossing to help feed those in need was very different this year because of the Corona Virus! Scheduled for Friday March 27, and served Saturday March 28 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton we assumed we needed to cancel the program because of social distancing, and fears that we'd serve contaminated food to those with little access to healthcare – and possibly even endanger our volunteers. But UUCP congregant Ray Nichols jumped in to the rescue!. UUCP usually provides a hot meal for the program, as well as help making the bag lunches that our guests get to take home for food the rest of the weekend. Ray contacted a Trenton Subway sandwich shop, and convinced them to let us buy boxed lunches (at a great rate!) for the many people who came out for a meal that Saturday. About 300 dining guests lined up at a safe distances from one another in an adjacent large parking lot, and were given their meals. The boxes included a bag of chips, a subway sandwich, piece of fresh fruit – and Washington Crossing also contributed juice boxes, and some home made brownies for the event. We split the costs with UU Washington Crossing, and it was a win-win for everyone – even the Subway owner! THANKS TEAM, and THANKS RAY for a creative solution and quick adaptation to help feed local people who needed a meal!

Rainbow Ministry

Our ministry actively seeks to provide welcome, acceptance, celebration and support to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and other (LGBTQ+) persons of all ages, all genders, and all sexual orientations in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Princeton and in outreach to the larger community. Our rainbow flag hangs in Robinson Lounge as a beacon of our welcoming congregation. Our events are postponed until we can safely be together again. Meanwhile feel free to contact us at LGBTQ@uuprinceton.org.

Citizens Climate Lobby: Normally 2nd Saturday each month, Citizens' Climate Lobby is pleased to have the support of UUCP (see recent UUCP resolution: <http://www.uuprinceton.org/new-climate-resolution/>). **CCL's normal monthly meetings in Fahs have been converted completely to virtual meetings until further notice:** The National broadcast will be on Saturday, May 9th starting at 1:00PM (log in 5-10 minutes early for soundcheck); this will be followed by a separate Zoom chapter meeting that will follow. Stay tuned through our weekly e-Happenings emails for the zoom link once it is known or contact Dunbar Birnie (UUCP member of CCL) at dunbar.birnie@gmail.com.

RepresentUS Central NJ Chapter: Normally 3rd Saturday each month, Fahs Auditorium at UUCP. RepresentUS is a national organizing fighting against political corruption and advocating for more accessible voting laws. Our chapter of RepresentUS is partnering with FairVote to increase public

awareness of Ranked Choice Voting to complement support for statewide legislation. **RepresentUS's normal monthly meetings in Fahs have been converted completely to virtual meetings until further notice:** the next meeting will be on Saturday, May 16th starting at 11:00AM: the guest speaker will be Diane Silver, FairVote's Regional Outreach Organizer. FairVote is a research and policy non-profit that organizes outreach and education to build the Ranked-Choice Voting movement. The meeting will be on the Zoom platform, from 11 A.M. to Noon. All are invited to participate; however, pre-registration is required. Contact repuscnj@gmail.com to be added to the invitation list. For more information contact Debra Lambo (deblam52@gmail.com) or Dunbar Birnie (dunbar.birnie@gmail.com).

UUs Helping Our Neighbors During These Difficult Times

There are a number of important efforts being undertaken to help as many as possible – both neighbors and those living in others parts of the state—during the very difficult challenges posed by the Corona Virus epidemic. If any of these activities are something you would like to participate in, please contact the indicated people. All hands on deck!

FACE MASKS FOR FOOD PANTRIES

You will have received an e-blast on April 20th with all the important details about the Racial Justice Task Force's spearheading of a drive to bring 700 face masks to Mercer's four food pantries. Email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org to get information on the status of this drive, and to find out if there is a still need for help in making and collecting masks or to help pantries in other ways.

DIRECT SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BE RELEASED IN THE COMING WEEKS

Advocacy continues to encourage more robust efforts on the part of the Governor and the Department of Corrections to identify incarcerated individuals who can be released from our state prisons and county jails. Once individuals are identified for release, their needs will be MANY and IMMEDIATE. A working group has been created to coordinate how faith groups and others can work together to insure released citizens obtain housing, food, medical care, IDs, transportation, and so much more. Contact Susan MacDonnell if you want to find out

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FACE MASKS FOR FOOD PANTRIES

UUCP's RJTF is spearheading a drive to bring 700 face masks to Mercer's four food pantries.



Email racialjustice@uuprinceton.org to get information on how to donate and make masks or to help pantries in other ways.

Racial Justice Task Force

This past Christmas, I gave my husband a US map showing all of the National Parks. We thought it would be fun to visit as many of the parks as we could. You know, put them on our "bucket list."

When I read Dina Gilio-Whitaker's article in the UU World Spring 2020 issue entitled, "The Problem with Wilderness," it almost ruined the parks idea for me. She notes how philosophical notions about "wilderness" and the concept of "wilderness for tourists" were created. The history is not a pretty one when you learn how indigenous people's managed that wilderness (so when was it wild?) and when land was designated for many of the national parks, it involved removing tribal nations that had lived on the lands for hundreds of years.

Gilio-Whitaker co-authored *All the Real Indians Died Off: and 20 Other Myths about Native Americans* with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, the author of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*. Two books well worth the read, but be prepared to feel uncomfortable.

During COVID-19, the stress just creeps up on us or hits us in the face while trying to stay well, managing quarantine, worrying about family and extended family members and friends. Where is the time and energy to read or even think about racial justice? Yet, COVID-19 is harshly reminding us of systemic racism as the US data reports persons of color disproportionately getting sick and dying. People of color disproportionately being "essential workers" who must continue to work during the crisis, at risk of greater exposure.

I've been participating in the UU FaithAction NJ book discussion of *Until We Reckon: Violence, Mass Incarceration and a Road to Repair*, set up before COVID-19, for five Zoom meetings from March to May. One discussion was about Danielle Sered's assertion that "until white people grapple with internalized racism, they will, knowingly or unknowingly, create barriers to the advancement of restorative justice." The innate bias against people of color can be seen in how even pre-school age children of color are sent home more often for "behavior" problems. That we are willing to give white kids - and middle class and rich white kids in particular - more breaks when they do stupid things while growing up. Until we can recognize our biases in judgments and our decisions that put people of color at greater risk for poorer outcomes, now blatantly seen in COVID-19 data, we are continuing to act racist.

One of our RJTF members is reading a 700+ page book about Frederick Douglass. I know I can't tackle that right now. But, we can all stay awake. We can all notice things. Maybe we can read some. Or watch some YouTube clips or movies that inform us.

Or just say something to family and friends about a quiet change that happened. The Ojibwe Indian maiden printed for 90 years on the Land O' Lakes butter box was removed

UU HISTORY

It Happened in Princeton. By Carl Haag

The quiet campus of Princeton University "had the equivalent of a stampede at a rock concert" on the morning of January 2, 2020 in the basement of the Firestone Library. It was because, after 60 years, the 1131 sealed letters to Emily Hale were finally going to be opened. The excitement was because the letters to Ms. Hale, written between 1930 and 1957, were from Thomas Stearns Eliot. T. S. Eliot had burned all of Emily's letters and on the same day at Harvard his "from the grave" note was released, insisting 'I never at any time had sexual relations with Miss Hale'.

There were many people who wanted to know about the relationship between Eliot and Hale and especially her effect on his poetry. T. S. Eliot's life and the unveiling of the letters is vividly revealed in the February 2020 issue of the *Princeton Magazine*. More about Eliot can be found on Wikipedia. You may wonder why a UU History column is focusing on T. S. Eliot. The answer is found in *A Who's Who of U. U. 's* where Eliot is listed as "a Borderline UU."

Eliot was born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a prominent Boston Brahmin family that was one of the most illustrious Unitarian families in America. It included his paternal grandfather, William Greenleaf Eliot, who had moved to St. Louis] to establish a Unitarian Christian church there, as well as to found Washington University. The Eliots had 14 children but not all survived to adulthood. Among their children were Rev. Thomas Lamb Eliot, who was the minister of the first Unitarian Church in Oregon and Founder of Reed College and Henry Ware Eliot, who was a successful businessman and father of "Tom" Eliot. W.G. Eliot was the grandfather of Dr. Martha May Eliot, a pediatrician and expert in public health and her sister, Abigail Adams Eliot, co-founder of the Eliot-Pearson School at Tufts University.

The family also included the statesman Samuel May Eliot [who helped found the AUA], the educator Dr. Charles W. Eliot [who was President of Harvard], Rev. Samuel Atkins Eliot [President of the AUA from 1897 to 1926], and Rev. Dr. Frederick May Eliot [President of the AUA from 1937 to 1958]. No wonder that T. S. was raised as a Unitarian.

T. S. Eliot moved to England in 1914 at the age of 25. Before leaving, Eliot told Emily Hale that he was in love with her; he

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(History continued from page 9)

exchanged letters with her from Oxford during 1914 and 1915 but they did not meet again until 1927. Eliot married Vivienne Haigh-Wood, a Cambridge governess, on 26 June 1915. The philosopher Bertrand Russell took an interest in Vivienne while the newlyweds stayed in his flat. However, their marriage was markedly unhappy.

On 29 June 1927, Eliot converted to Anglicanism from Unitarianism, and in November of that year he took British citizenship. About 30 years later Eliot commented on his religious views that he combined "a Catholic cast of mind, a Calvinist heritage, and a Puritanical temperament."

On 10 January 1957, at the age of 68, Eliot married Esme Valerie Fletcher, who was 30. In contrast to his first marriage, Eliot knew Fletcher well, as she had been his secretary at Faber and Faber since August 1949. They kept their wedding secret.

Eliot died of emphysema at his home in Kensington in London, on 4 January 1965, and his ashes were taken to St Michael and All Angels' Church, East Coker, the village in Somerset from which his Eliot ancestors had emigrated to America. A wall plaque in the church commemorates him with a quotation from his poem East Coker: "In my beginning is my end. In my end is my beginning."

Other clues about Eliot. Though no longer a U. S. Citizen, Eliot returned in 1932-33 to teach at Harvard. He visited Hale at Scripps College CA, where she was teaching. In 1948, the year when Eliot received the Nobel Prize in Literature, he came to the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton for a year.

Why Eliot left his Unitarian roots is unanswered, as is his relationship with Emily Hale. While researchers going through Hale's letters may shed some light on their relationship, his religious conversion probably can only be guessed at. In a strange way it may be hidden in his poems, although not in the first one below.

In 1939, Eliot published a book of light verse, Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats ("Old Possum" was Ezra Pound's nickname for him). After Eliot's death, the book was adapted as the basis of the musical Cats by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Grizabella & *Memory*.

In 1935, Eliot wrote *Burnt Norton* as a love poem to Emily Hale: "Footfalls echo in the memory / Down the passage we did not take / Towards the door we never opened / Into the Rose Garden."

Here are a few excerpts from his poems that fit the times we are living in now ~ The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock. Eliot wrote most of the poem when he was only twenty-two. Its now-famous opening lines, comparing the evening sky to "a patient etherised upon a table", were considered shocking and offensive.

The Four Quartets "hints and whispers of children, the sickness that must grow worse to find healing". The Waste Land The poem is known for its obscure nature "April is the cruellest month", "I will show you fear in a handful of dust." The Hollow Men "This is the way the world ends, Not with a bang

but a whimper."

A finale, perhaps not grand. T. S. Eliot besides writing obscure poetry, was himself obscure. He had a dark side that was shocking. It included his negative feelings towards women and others. His greatness can be understood but I suspect his own life will never be.



(Racial Justice continued from page 9)

in March. Now I understand cultural misappropriation. Native people are not mascots or logos. It's something to challenge here in New Jersey as many high schools still have "Indian mascots" and the RJTF is working to create an Indigenous Peoples Day statewide.

Or say something loud when you have the chance. The UUCP Racial Justice Task Force has been working these past two months on many things. We have prepared a congregational resolution to bring to you against white supremacy and racism that embraces the proposed 8th Principle: *to affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions*. We are working on updating UUCP's website Justice tab. Mentors are texting and phoning their mentees. We invited you in April to help with the MASKS FOR FOOD PANTRIES project in a congregational eblast.

The NJ Coalition with the EJI (Equal Justice Initiative) is advancing the collection of soil and preparations to install a plaque in Eatontown regarding the lynching that occurred there. They need help on their committees.

So hang in there. You are loved. We will get through this together. And your voice is needed."

Sharon Copeland, Co-Chair Racial Justice;
racialjustice@uuprinceton.org



(Social Justice continued from page 8)

the status of these plans and offer your assistance.
susmacdonn@gmail.com

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO IMMIGRANTS IN NJ DETENTION FACILITIES

Advocates for those in detention facilities are working to find to assist in obtaining PPEs both for those in detention, as well as as some may be released due to CoVid concerns. Ways to do this are being researched and anyone interested in being informed as plans are developed can email Ted Fetter at fetter4@verizon.net or Clara Haignere at chaignere@gmail.com

Additional Ways You Can Help Our Neighbors During The Coronavirus Crisis

Many families in our area are suffering economically due to the coronavirus. While many food pantries have closed, Arm in Arm is finding creative ways to continue to provide food to those in need while remaining safe by providing mobile services to local areas, including Trenton and Princeton. Their efforts started March 26. Please consider making a donation to Arm & Arm by going to <https://arminarm.org/> and clicking on Support. You can contact Jenn Johnston, jennj@arminarm.org if you have questions. If you would prefer to make an in-kind donation of food or personal care items, Arm in Arm is accepting those on a very limited scale due to CDC recommendations to fully disinfect donated products; please contact our Princeton site directly at 609- 921-2135 for more information and to coordinate a drop off. (The Princeton site is at 61 Nassau Street -- the Basement of Nassau Presbyterian Church).

Arm in Arm can also use help packing food donations for their distribution in their mobile food pantries. Below are the links to sign up for volunteer opportunities on Monday through Thursdays. Both the Trenton pantries (East Hanover (Headquarters) and Hudson Street/Chambersburg pantry) have needs for prepackaging groceries and bulk food deliveries. All volunteers are asked to attend only one shift per day, and to read the coronavirus prevention recommendations in the link below, and sign a volunteer agreement when you arrive at the pantry. In order for Arm in Arm to continue serving food insecure members of our community, your participation, cooperation and adherence to 6 foot social distancing is extremely important. Arm in Arm appreciates your commitment to your neighbors in need.

48 HUDSON STREET PANTRY SIGN UP:
<https://signup.com/go/MMsyRrE>

123 E. HANOVER STREET PANTRY SIGN UP:
<https://signup.com/go/riUowmp>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

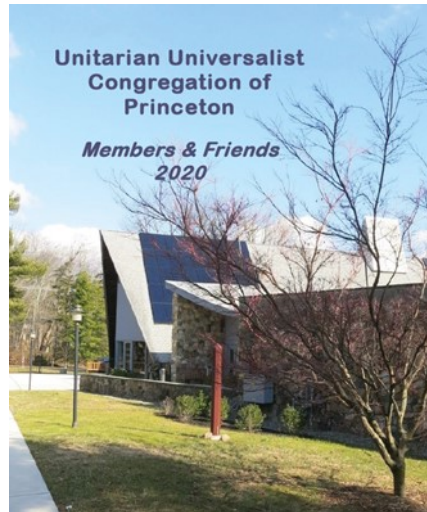
You can also donate to the **Princeton Children's fund**, which is collecting Coronavirus Emergency Relief funds. Checks can be mailed to 5 Haslet Ave., Princeton, N.J. 08540. Go to <https://www.princetonchildrensfund.org/> for more information.

Photo Directory in Production at Lifetouch:

Operations at Lifetouch are currently suspended, so we don't know when our directories will be

printed and shipped. The final proofs looked great, so we are eager to finally receive them! In addition to the free directories for all those who were photographed, we've ordered extra copies for purchase. We'll keep you posted.

Amanda Gillum,
 Directory Project
 Coordinator



SPRING SALE Postponed!!

FALL SALE

Saturday, September 26th, 9am–2pm
All proceeds go to our Social Outreach Activities

Spring Sale has been postponed due to the pandemic. We have reserved the last Saturday in September for a **FALL SALE**. We did this successfully in 2018, and we can do it again!

Many of us had been **setting aside furniture, clothing and household items to donate**, and we know that this delay is a significant inconvenience. We hope most everyone can store donations until Sale Set-up Week, starting Sunday, September 20.

We'll be monitoring the situation, and hope to resume recruiting volunteers and making plans for this wonderful community event as soon as congregational life returns to normal. Please stay tuned, and reserve our new proposed date!

~Judy Vee, Binnie Thom & Cathy Bauer-Koggan
FALL SALE Coordinators

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Skylights

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**Meeting with the Ministers**

Rev. Bill and/or Rev. Jennifer are happy to meet with you individually at church, for lunch, over coffee, etc., at a time that works for everyone. Please email either of them to make an appointment. You're also welcome to drop in, but visits, meetings, denominational events, etc., regularly pull them out of the office, often with very little notice. It's always a good idea to call before dropping by to visit: **609-924-1604, ext. 111 (Rev. Bill), or ext. 118 (Rev. Jennifer)**

In the event of emergencies needing the attention of a minister, please contact Rev. Bill by phone or email first. If necessary, then contact Meg Cox Leone, President of the Board of Trustees, at meg@megcox.com

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skylights @uuprinceton.org
Please submit your article as an attachment in our preferred font, Times New Roman, 11 pt. Describe your submission in the subject line of your e-mail and tell us under which Ministry it belongs.

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[skylights @ uuprinceton.org](mailto:skylights@uuprinceton.org)